

investigation in Washington County - Bloomberg News
Bonnie Smith to: mdrajem
Bcc: Terri-A White

02/13/2012 02:02 PM

From: Bonnie Smith/R3/USEPA/US
To: mdrajem@bloomberg.net
Bcc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US

Dear Mark,

If you need to attribute the information about Dimock, it should be attributed to Terri White, EPA Region 3 spokesperson:

Attached is an EPA letter to Cabot Oil & Gas explaining the basis and goals of EPA's investigation in Dimock.

As stated in the letter, our actions in Dimock reflect our longstanding responsibility under federal environmental laws to address threats to public health. The agency's investigation in Dimock is focused solely on water quality in residential wells.

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In Washington County, Pa., EPA has conducted inspections at active industrial operations including well pads and compressor stations. These inspections were done as part of our multi-media enforcement program, which develops comprehensive approaches to address complex and emerging environmental problems. Multi-media inspections are conducted in various industrial sectors to determine their compliance with multiple federal environmental laws including for air, water and hazardous waste.

>

> -- Terri

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- [Cabot.pdf](#)

Mark, here is some additional background, if you'd like you can attribute it to me:

Definition: multi-media inspections are inspections that look at compliance with several federal environmental statutes - - including air, water and hazardous waste.

Currently, EPA is assessing the findings of its multi-media investigations in Washington County. We do not provide the names of facilities or information about an investigation until it's complete.

There are currently several multi-media initiatives underway in EPA Region 3.

Multi-media inspections are not new, they are a regular part of EPA Region 3's compliance and enforcement program.

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Here's the reporter's email ...please handle. Thnx!

----- Forwarded by Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US on 02/13/2012 12:09 PM -----

From: "MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <mdrajem@bloomberg.net>
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Date: 02/13/2012 07:59 AM
Subject: investigation in Washington County

Terri - I saw this report about an EPA investigation in Washington County. Can you give me some details about what is going on there? Thanks, Mark Drajem 202 624 1964

----- Original Message -----

From: Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>
To: MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
At: 1/26 18:03:19

Hi Mark,

Here is EPA's response to statements made by Cabot about EPA's work in Dimock. -- Terri

EPA is in this community sampling and providing water as a direct result of requests from Dimock residents. Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law. We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern. We are conducting monitoring as a prudent step to investigate these concerns and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action. This is consistent with steps we would take in any situation where we are presented with potential health risks to citizens under the federal laws we are charged to carry out.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama made clear that he is committed to tapping America's natural gas as part of a new era in American energy. He also affirmed our commitment to "developing this resource without putting the health and safety of our citizens at risk."

We have been clear that if we see an immediate threat to public health, we will not hesitate to take steps under the law to protect Americans whose health may be at risk. The Agency also welcomes PADEP and Cabot's participation in the sampling. Without a doubt, EPA's samples will be collected and reviewed using the highest scientific standards and we will take into account all other relevant and reliable data developed by PADEP and Cabot. The residents in Dimock deserve answers based on the facts, and we look forward to working together to meet our responsibility to this community.



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